

Citizens Advisory Committee for Marietta Parks (CACMP)

Minutes of the Meeting on September 16, 2010, at Marietta Fire Station #1 Training Room

A public meeting was held Fire Station #1 Training Room, called to order by Chairman Jim King at 7:00 p.m. Present were CACMP members Heath Garrett, Betty Hunter, Alan Watkins, Randy Weiner, Cindy Suto, Larry Ceminsky, Mitch Hunter, Ford Bohannon, Jim Morris, Walter Moon, Michael Helenek, and Deborah Huwaldt.

The proposed minutes of the August 12th meeting were corrected to record that Ford Bohannon was present, Mitch Hunter was not present, and Bill Hagemann was not present and is no longer a member of CACMP. The word indigent was replaced by "qualifying" and the spelling of the word razing was corrected. Randy Weiner moved acceptance of the amended minutes, Larry Ceminsky seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Jim King reviewed City Council action regarding CACMP interests: As we recommended, they voted to acquire the property at 365 N. Marietta Parkway for \$260,000 and the present tenant, the tire store, will remain on the site as a renter until EPRC work commences. Council approved razing the buildings at Preston Chase after deciding that the buildings and pool were not appropriate for park or city use. After the City removes hazardous materials, various fire departments will conduct beneficial training exercises during the razing of the buildings. The cost of the demolition will come from the parks development funds and not from the land acquisition funds. The City has approved making a piece of property between Church Street and Cherokee Street and north of the North Marietta Parkway a new pocket park and is considering an additional pocket park in Marietta. A motion to go into executive session to discuss that additional property was made by Randy Weiner and seconded by Alan Watkins but was withdrawn by Randy Weiner after comment by Johnny Sinclair. The City has recommended to the County that it move forward with a SPLOST vote to include roadways, sidewalks and trails.

Committee Reports:

Parks Improvement and Rehab: Cindy Suto moved that we develop a survey capability for our website to allow the public to weigh in on questions to be proposed by CACMP members. Randy Weiner seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Deborah Huwaldt inquired if members had seen her recent survey and some had. Rich Buss and Rich Deckman reported on project progress: Aviation Park is being advertised for bid tomorrow after Rich Deckman developed most of the documentation; Hickory Hills Park's conceptual plans are ready for a public review and comment meeting. Construction could be started in April unless the plan requires major changes. Brown Park progress includes contracting for statuary which will be completed in about a year; improvements at Brown Park are being scheduled to be completed in time to receive the sculptures; Merritt Park cleanup has been completed through a prior funding appropriation and is now ready for development of bond funded trails, bridge and other amenities as recommended. Lighting for various parks is being researched by staff, especially new versions of solar lighting which may be easier to clean and maintain and it may feed power into the grid for credit during the day.

Recreation Centers: As approved by Council, Jim Morris met with staff about the proposed changes at Lawrence Street Recreation Center. The Sub-committee has requested a further meeting with staff to refine the proposal.

Real Estate Acquisition: No report.

New Potential Parks: No report.

Trail and Connectivity and Historic Trails and Signage: Jim King requested that CACMP members make a special effort to be present whenever we schedule a meeting with the new base commander. Betty Hunter suggested possible recognition of Life Chiropractic's preservation of Marietta's first water works site which is close to Burruss-Wildwood. She solicited help for the upcoming tour of Marietta's historic cemeteries site on October 10. Deborah Huwaldt noted that her poodles prefer grass to wood chips as a dog play surface.

Burruss-Wildwood: Larry Ceminsky suggested an effort to promote these sites to the public because he sees few cars in the parking lot. Rich Buss suggested that some traffic comes from people walking or biking from nearby schools instead of driving to the parking lots. He has gotten three compliments on the parks from users this week. We should consider developing a "Friends of the Park" support group, including the SORBA bike group that has been approached by staff about volunteering to expand the bike paths, possibly by developing switchbacks in the nearby hillsides. The perceived remoteness of the shelters and pavilions was discussed. All of the pavilions have now been renovated. The law enforcement history of the parks may chill general public use and needs to be overcome with publicity about the improvements.

The CACMP meeting was adjourned to allow the Sub-committees to meet.

The next meeting will be on October 14th at the same time and location.

Respectfully submitted, this 17th day of September, 2010

Jim Morris, Secretary